

**Amendments to the Specification**

***Please replace paragraph 143 with the following:***

[0143] In these embodiments determination of the (DNase) marker nucleic acids and/or polypeptides may for example be carried out in a reaction comprising a binding agent specific for the detection of the marker molecules. These binding agents may comprise for example nucleic acid probes, antibodies and antigen-binding fragments, bifunctional hybrid antibodies, peptidomimetics containing minimal antigen-binding epitopes etc. A peptidomimetic is a synthetic peptide having nonnatural amino acids that is capable of mimicking a biological property of a natural parent peptide (Denicourt et al., Science. 305 (2004) 1411-13). The binding agents may be used in many different detection techniques for example in southern-, northern-, western-blot, ELISA, lateral flow assay, (hybrid) capture assay, latex-agglutination, immuno-chromatographic strips or immuno-precipitation. Generally binding agent based detection may be carried out as well in vitro as directly in situ for example in the course of an immuno-cytochemical staining reaction. Any other method suitable for determining the amount of particular polypeptides in solutions of biological samples, such as biochemical, chemical, physical or physico-chemical methods, may be used according to the present invention.

***A clean copy of replacement paragraph 143 follows:***

[0143] In these embodiments determination of the (DNase) marker nucleic acids and/or polypeptides may for example be carried out in a reaction comprising a binding agent specific for the detection of the marker molecules. These binding agents may comprise for example nucleic acid probes, antibodies and antigen-binding fragments, bifunctional hybrid antibodies, peptidomimetics containing minimal antigen-binding epitopes etc. A peptidomimetic is a synthetic peptide having non-peptidic structural elements that is capable of mimicking a biological action of a natural parent peptide (Denicourt et al., Science. 305 (2004) 1411-13). The binding agents may be used in many different detection techniques for example in southern-, northern-, western-blot, ELISA, lateral flow assay, (hybrid) capture assay, latex-agglutination,

immuno-chromatographic strips or immuno-precipitation. Generally binding agent based detection may be carried out as well in vitro as directly in situ for example in the course of an immuno-cytochemical staining reaction. Any other method suitable for determining the amount of particular polypeptides in solutions of biological samples, such as biochemical, chemical, physical or physico-chemical methods, may be used according to the present invention.